

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:” - Ephesians 1:3

Introduction



Illustration 1: This section of Ephesians has been described by Bible commentators as searching through a maze.

This verse begins a section of _____ sentences that are part of _____ main paragraph.

These sections demonstrate God's eternal purpose for Christians that encompass the _____, _____, and _____.

These sections are divided accordingly:

Verses 3-6 emphasize God the _____ in _____.

Verses 7-12 emphasize God the _____ in _____.

Verses 13-14 emphasize God the _____ in our _____.

For outline purposes, these sections can be divided accordingly:

The _____ of the _____. (Verses 3-6)

The _____ of the _____. (Verses 7-12)

The _____ of the _____. (Verses 13-14)

Each section is concluded with the similar phrase “_____”

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”

First, we ought to bring supreme _____ unto God for ALL His blessings.

The word “blessed” comes from the Greek word *eulogeō* from which we get the English word: _____.

This Greek word encompasses the idea of praise and commendation, but is also a declaration of a person's _____.

Since _____ is in the very nature of God and there is no one good but God, God's people ought to _____ Him for His great goodness to us. In the midst of pain, struggle, trials, frustrations, opposition, and adversity...we need to praise the Lord! (Psalm 31:19; Psalm 107:1; Psalm 84:11; Matthew 19:17)

Second, this verse emphasizes both the _____ of Jesus Christ and the _____ of Jesus Christ.

Christ's human nature is seen in the title “_____ of our Lord Jesus Christ” as well as “_____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In Matthew 27:46, Jesus experienced a _____ from the Father when He took upon Himself the sins of the whole world which caused Him to address the Father as _____.

God revealed as “Father” is rarely mentioned in the Old Testament. The Old Testament reveals God as:

1. *Elohim* or _____ (Strong One; One to be feared)
2. *Jehovah* or _____ (God keeps His promises)
3. *Adonai* or _____ (Read publicly in place of Jehovah)
4. *El* or _____
5. *El Shaddai* or _____ (All-Sufficient One)
6. *Jehovah Jireh* or _____

In addition, *Jehovah Nissi* (Our Banner), *Jehovah Shalom* (Our Peace), *Jehovah Sabaoth* (Lord of Hosts), and *Jehovah Tsidkenu* (Our Righteousness).

In the New Testament, however, God takes on another name as Father. Jesus' first recorded words in Luke 2:49 describe that He was to do His “_____.”

In the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), the word “Father” occurs _____ times.

List some other instances where Christ referred to God as His Father:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

According to John 14:9, what was Jesus saying about His nature?

How does Colossians 1:15 clarify that profound statement?

An in-depth look at the Humanity and Deity of Jesus Christ

1. In His humanity, He had a _____ (Matthew 1:18, 2:11, 13:55). In His Deity, He had a _____ (Matthew 1:20; John 8:42).

2. In His humanity, He possessed human names like _____ (Matthew 1:21), _____ (Matthew 16:28), _____ (Matthew 1:1), and _____ (Matthew 1:1). In His Deity, He possessed divine names like _____ (John 1:1, 20:28; Titus 2:13), _____ (John 3:16, 10:36), _____ (Matthew 7:21), and _____ (Matthew 1:23).

3. In His humanity, He had a human _____ (John 4:9, 20:14-15, 21:4-5). In His Deity, He had a divine _____ (Luke 9:28-36).

4. Compare and contrast the humanity and Deity of Christ in this matter of **characteristics**:

Human Characteristics

(1). _____
(John 4:6)

(2). _____
(Matthew 4:2; 21:18)

(3). _____
(John 19:28)

(4). _____
(Matthew 8:24; cf. Psalm 121:4)

(5). _____
(Heb 2:18; Heb 4:15; cf. Jms 1:13)

Divine Characteristics

(1). _____
(Lk 5:22, 6:8; Mt 17:24-27; Jn 13:21,27)

(2). _____
(Mt 18:20; Mt 28:20 Jn 1:48; Jn 6:21)

(3). _____
(Mk 5:15; Mt 10:1; Jn 9:32; Mt 14:14)

(4). _____
(Heb 1:12; Heb 7:24; Heb 13:8)

(5). _____
(Jn 1:1; Heb 1:8; Rev 1:8; Phil 2:6-8)

5. Compare and contrast the humanity and Deity of Christ in this matter of **activities**:

Human Activities

Divine Activities

(1). _____
(Mark 1:35)

(1). _____
(Mt 9:2; Mk 2:5-10; Lk 7:48)

(2). _____
(Jn 5:17,36; Mt 13:54-55; Mk 6:3)

(2). _____
(Jn 5:22; II Tim 4:1; Rev 19:13-15)

(3). _____
(Luke 2:52; Hebrews 5:8)

(3). _____
(Phil 2:9-11; Mt. 9:18; Acts 10:25-26)

In addition to His activities when on earth, Christ was involved in _____
as Hebrews 1:1-2, John 1:1-3, and Colossians 1:16 declare of Christ in eternity past.

Jesus will also perform divine activities set for the future. According to John 5:25-29; 6:39,54; 11:25,
Christ will _____ the _____ in the _____.

ADONAI: One more statement. In *Lectures in Systematic Theology* by Henry Clarence Thiessen, Thiessen wrote this: “Things that are in the Old Testament said of Jehovah are in the New Testament said of Christ. He was the creator (Ps. 102:24-27; Heb. 1:10-12), was seen by Isaiah (Isa 6:1-4; John 12:41), was to be preceded by a forerunner (Isa. 40:3; Matt. 3:3), disciplines his people (Num. 21:6f; 1 Cor. 10:9), is to be regarded as holy (Isa. 8:13; I Pet. 3:15), is to lead captivity captive (Ps. 68:18; Eph. 4:8), and is to be the object of faith (Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:9, 13).”

“Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”

God is the _____ of our spiritual blessings (James 1:17; Romans 8:28)

Here in this verse we see that we ought to bless God for He is the ultimate giver of blessings and all those blessings are bestowed upon His children.

The emphasis in this verse is on the _____ blessings that God gives to us.

In fact, we must realize that _____ blessings are given by God.

Notice also that the word “blessed” is in the _____ which means that these are blessings that the saved currently _____ and not something they have to _____.

“Spiritual” comes from the word “*Pneumatikos*” which means _____ or “extremely delicate and light in a way that seems too perfect for this world.”

“Natural” and “Sensual” would be the English opposite of “Spiritual” and those words are translated from the Greek word “*psuchikos*.”

The _____ is a translation of “*Pneuma*” which means _____ and can refer to any kind whether it be _____ or _____.

NOTE: The word “Spiritual” always refers to the divine and holy and should never be confused with “Natural” or “Sensual” as the words in the Greek are separate definitions.

According to II Peter 1:3, _____ has _____ (past tense) the Christian (the redeemed; the saved) the _____ to live a _____ life in _____.

Let us consider the many blessings that we already obtained:

According to Romans 5:5, what blessing have we already obtained? _____

According to John 14:27, what blessing have we already obtained? _____

According to John 15:11, what blessing have we already obtained? _____

According to Philippians 4:13, what blessing have we already obtained? _____

Think about it?? Many times we ask for things that God has already blessed us with. The problem lies with us! Either sin has so broken that fellowship with God that we believe the blessings that we have been blessed with are “unreachable” or we do not “trust” God and take Him at His Word concerning those blessings.

Remember! The Holy Spirit lives within us. He is our promised Comforter. With that promise comes many blessings that when we allow Him full control, it produces fruit that is noticeable on the outside to others.

According to Galatians 5:22-23, list that fruit that the Holy Spirit produces:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | |

“_____” refers to the “abode of God and the impact of heaven's influence on the particular situation or person.”

This phrase is used _____ in the book of Ephesians. It is found in Ephesians 1:3; 1:20; 2:6; 3:10. The same Greek word is used in Ephesians 6:12, but it is translated as “high places.”

Some facts concerning “Heavenly Places:”

_____ are active participants of this heavenly realm of spiritual blessings. This is indicated in Ephesians 1:3 and Ephesians 2:6

_____ exist in this heavenly realm and “are observers of God's wisdom as displayed in the church.” (Homer A. Kent, Jr.) This is indicated in Ephesians 3:10.

Believers are confronted by _____ in the spiritual realm of “Heavenly Places.” This is indicated in Ephesians 6:12.

Concerning this verse, Warren W. Wiersbe wrote this, “Physically, he (the Christian) is on the earth in a human body, but spiritually he is seated with Christ in the heavenly sphere-and it is this heavenly sphere that provides the power and direction for the earthly walk.”

So, the phrase “heavenly places” refers to our _____ and not just to the physical location of that “heavenly place.”

That “position” is made possible _____.

The key phrase in Ephesians is the key to obtaining these “spiritual blessings” that are “provided from above” but can only be obtained _____.

Think about it?? Yes, you are rich. You are blessed. You have something that the majority of people do not have. Because you are “in Christ,” you have the most ultimate blessings and the most ultimate riches. Praise God that you have responded to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. **You have been blessed!**

“I Have Been Blessed”
(Ephesians 1:3 - “...who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings...”)

Verse 1:

When He moves among us all that He does, all of His mercy, all of His love.
If the pen of a writer could write everyday, even this world could never contain:
How I've been blessed.

Verse 2:

The warmth in the winter, flowers in spring, laughter of summer the changing of leaves.
Food on my table and a good place to sleep, clothes on my back and shoes on my feet.
I have been blessed.

Chorus:

I have been blessed God's so good to me, precious are His thoughts of you and me.
No way I could count them there's not enough time, so I'll just thank Him for being so kind.
God has been good so good, **I have been blessed.**

Verse 3:

Arms that will raise, a voice that can talk, hands that can touch, legs that can walk.
Ears that can listen, eyes that can see, I've got to praise Him as long as I breathe.
I have been blessed.

Verse 4:

A mother and father nurtured and raised, sisters and brothers memories made.
Our pastor to lead us, this altar to pray, stripes that can heal, the blood that still saves.
I have been blessed.

Chorus:

I have been blessed God's so good to me, precious are His thoughts of you and me.
No way I could count them there's not enough time, so I'll just thank Him for being so kind.
God has been good so good, **I have been blessed.**

Verse 5:

We live in a country the greatest on earth, where the flag stands for freedom and what it is worth.
She stands in the harbor Miss Liberty calls, all have given some but some gave it all.
So we can be blessed.

Verse 6:

He's my shoulder to lean on when I am down, the rock where He leads me when I'm overwhelmed.
The place where He hides me under His wings, He's not just a song He's the reason I sing.
I have been blessed.

Chorus:

I have been blessed God's so good to me, precious are His thoughts of you and me.
no way I could count them there's not enough time, so I'll just thank Him for being so kind.
God has been good so good, **I have been blessed.**